(b) No amount has been fixed State-wise for release during 1988-89. It will be based on actual deficiency of teaching, learning material and second teachers reflected in the block project reports and sanctioned by State Level Empowered Committees.

Model Stations in West Bengal

1428. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis of selecting stations for being developed into model railway stations and the names of such stations selected so far in West Bengal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to select some more stations as model station in West Bengal; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Certain stations are nominated to be developed as model stations to serve as a model in respect of functional and aesthetic standards for catering to traffic expected to be dealt by turn of the century. These model stations have been selected on considerations that these should be at suitable locations like Zonal Headquarters, Divisional Headquarters, State Capitals, District Headquarter, important junctions of specific importance, etc.: The Stations selected in West Bengal are as under: (i) Sealdah (Eastern Railway, (2) Howrah (Eastern Railway), (3) Durgapur (Eastern Railway), (4) Malda Town (Eastern Railway), (5) Kharagpur (S. E. Railway).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Trains connecting Howrah with important stations in South

1429. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of berths available in trains connecting the stations Guwahati, Howrah, Mangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum and the frequency of trains every week;

(b) whether Government is considering the introduction of any direct daily train connecting the stations Howrah, Madras, Cochin, Trivandrum and Mangalore and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has received any request demanding direct train link between stations of Kerala and Howrah and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. However, besides trains mentioned in (a) above, two pairs of daily and one pair of triweekly trains are available between Howrah and Madras.

(c) Yes, Sir. In view of such demands, 951/952 Cochin-Howrah Express was introduced from October, 1987.

Statement

	Train description	Frequency	Accommodation per trip		Number of passenger coaches
			Upper Class	II Class	
1	901/902 Trivandrum Guwahati Express (*via* Howrah-Madras).	Weekly	92	935	16
2	939/940 Cochin-Guwahati Express (*via* Howrah-Madras).	Weekly	92	935	16
3	951/952 Cochin-Howrah Express . . .	Weekly	68	865	14

Note: Passenger for Mangalore can take suitable connecting trains at Palghat.

Criteria for Establishing of New Railway Station

1430. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the details of criteria for establishing a new railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): A new railway station may be provided on an existing railway line, or on a new line under construction, either to serve major population or industrial centres, or on operational considerations, like providing the requisite line capacity to run the required number of trains.

Railway Station at Village Kondaipur

1431. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for establishing a Railway Station at village Kondaipur between Mankar and Paraj of Eastern Railway; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The proposal for opening of a halt station at Village Kondaipur between Mankar and Paraj stations was examined but not found financially justified.

Conversion of Trunk Routes into Broad Gauge

1432. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has requested for conversion of trunk routes into broad gauge and for construction of new lines in their respective States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are a large number of such projects being demanded by various State Governments, from time to time. However, on account of the prevailing constraint of resources, it has not been found practicable to take up any more of new line projects, for the present.